

CLAIMS

1. A 'helping-cart' (1c) for assisting a store customer (3) comprising a body (5), a base (6), transportation means (6a), and some information hardware; wherein the body (5) is so high as to make it difficult to smuggle the 'helping-cart' (1c) out of the store; and the base (6) is designed so as to maintain the 'helping-cart' (1c) in the upright position in a stable manner; whereby a customer (3) can push the 'helping-cart' around inside the store as needed to find the location of a certain product or obtain a detailed information of a certain product, yet is discouraged from smuggling the 'helping-cart' (1c) out of the store.
2. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the height of the 'helping-cart' (1c) is greater than the clearance of the store exit (4).
3. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the height of the 'helping-cart' (1c) is greater than the cargo space of ordinary automobiles.
4. The invention according to claim 1, wherein a sensor is installed inside the 'helping-cart' (1c) so as to detect a tilt of the 'helping-cart' (1c), whereby a smuggling of the 'helping-cart' (1c) out of the store by tilting the 'helping-cart' (1c) is not possible.

5. The invention according to claim 1, wherein an electronic tag is installed inside the 'helping-cart' (1c) so as to alarm any attempt to pass the 'helping-cart' (1c) through the exit (4) that is equipped with a gate for detecting such electronic tag.

6. The invention according to claim 1, wherein a battery is installed in the 'helping-cart' (1c).

7. The invention according to claim 6, wherein the battery is rechargeable.

8. The invention according to claim 6, wherein the battery is stored in the base area (6b).

9. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the information hardware includes pushbuttons (7) that are used to call a store employee for help.

10. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the information hardware includes a computer (8) for dispensing information such as product location inside store, 'product information', or the likes.

11. The invention according to claim 10, wherein the 'product information' is stored according to the barcode of each product so as to ensure the universality across stores and territories throughout the world.

12. The invention according to claim 10, wherein a certain information is dispensed upon the specific request from the customer (3).

13. The invention according to claim 10, wherein a certain information is dispensed automatically on a product when the 'helper-cart' (1c) is near the product.

14. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the information hardware includes a barcode scanner or the like 9 for identifying a product that the customer (3) is interested in.

15. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the information hardware includes a telephone or the like 10 for communicating between the customer (3) and a store employee.

16. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the information hardware includes a video camera (11) through which a store employee can see the general area around the 'helping-cart' (1c).

17. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the information hardware includes a light (12) that can be turned on when the customer (3) wants the attention from a store employee.

18. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the information hardware includes an antenna (13a).

19. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the information hardware includes the status of the 'helping-cart' (1C) to indicate whether the 'helping-cart' 1c is being used or idling and available.

20. The invention according to claim 1, wherein the information received by the information hardware is originated from a remote data center outside the store.

21. The invention according to claim 20, wherein the information is received utilizing an internet link in part.

22. The invention according to claim 21, wherein the information is received utilizing a wireless communication link in part.

23. A 'helping-cart' (1c) for assisting a store customer (3) comprising a body (5), a base (6), transportation means (6a), some information hardware, and a storage hardware (14); wherein the body (5) is so high as to make it difficult to smuggle the 'helping-cart' (1c) out of the store; and the base (6) is designed so as to maintain the 'helping-cart' (1c) in the upright position in a stable manner, and the storage hardware (14) is for storing merchandizes to be purchased by the store customer (3); whereby a customer (3) can push the 'helping-cart' around inside the store as needed to find the

location of a certain product or obtain a detailed information of a certain product, yet is discouraged from smuggling the 'helping-cart' (1c) out of the store.

24. An invention according to claim 23, wherein the storage hardware (14) is separable from the rest of the 'helping-cart' embodiment.